



The Anchor Line

The newsletter of
Grace Episcopal Church

February 2025
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A Word from Father Justin



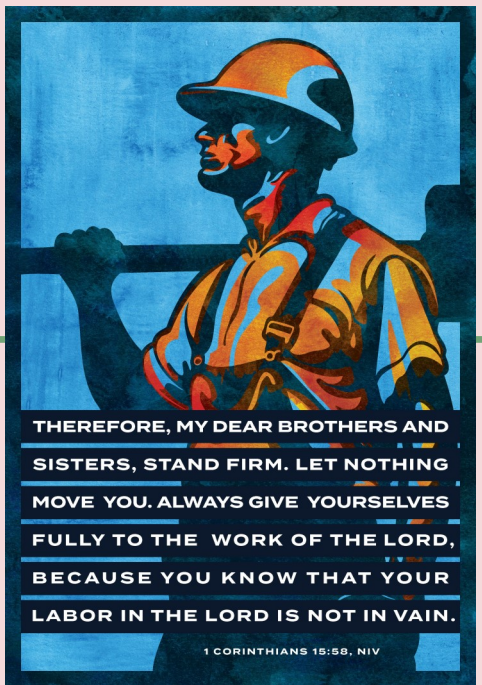
My dear friend, and colleague, the Rev. Sean Ekberg (the Great and Powerful Oz) recently shared these words,

“The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection is dedicated to following Jesus Christ in all manner of things. We feed the hungry. We clothe those who can't afford it. We include those who have been left aside, lost, or are alone. We practice ministry that uplifts and encourages; we do not demean those around us. We are Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, etc. But we are Christian, first. We love America, as we are American. We love Jesus more. We strive to respect the dignity of every human being, something that is not always achieved but always attempted.”

It is my sincerest hope that during these times of change and transition, we can hold fast to those things that, at the core of who we are, will never change. I pray that instead of perpetuating division, we can come together, with the intention of finding common ground. While this work is difficult, as faithful followers of Jesus, make no mistake, this is the work to which we are called. Living into our baptismal covenant is paramount for our journey of faith. We must be steadfast in our care of those who have no voice. We must bravely speak up to injustices that we encounter. As my friend said, “We are Christian, first.” May we all find our hope within the chaos of our world.

“O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (BCP p. 824)

Fr. Justin+
918-704-1665



THEREFORE, MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, STAND FIRM. LET NOTHING MOVE YOU. ALWAYS GIVE YOURSELVES FULLY TO THE WORK OF THE LORD, BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT YOUR LABOR IN THE LORD IS NOT IN VAIN.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58, NIV

ANNOUNCEMENT



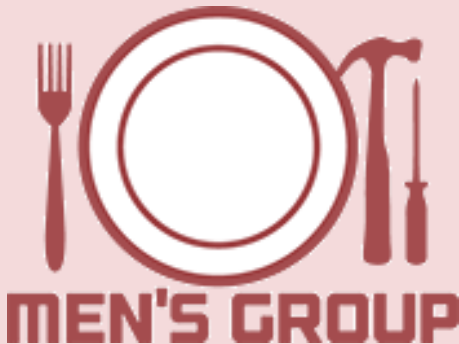
Sunday Worship

Please join us for Sunday worship
at 9:00am

Coffee Hour after Sunday Worship

Grace Episcopal Church warmly invites its members and friends to come together in Fellowship after Sunday Worship, where the aroma of coffee and delicious treats mingles with the sound of joyful conversations, fostering a deep sense of community and belonging.

Hosts are needed, please sign-up in the fellowship hall.



Grace & St Thomas Men's Luncheon

When: Every 2nd Tuesday of the month at noon

Where: Wicked Wheel or other location as announced

No reservation required



Wednesday night Worship and Supper- February 19th

When: Every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:45 pm
On the third Wednesday of each month, we gather at 5:45 PM for a meaningful Worship service featuring Holy Communion, followed by a delightful Potluck supper where everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to share, enriching our fellowship with diverse flavors and stories. If you wish, bring an adult beverage of your choice
Enjoy the worship service and fellowship



Dinner with Friends

Now that we've had our winter, it's time to go out to eat. **Monday, February 3 at 5 PM** we will meet at Hibachi Express on Middle Beach Road across the street from the Walmart. It's very informal but we love it. It's like a Kobe or Osaka but it's not prepared at your table. Hit up Dean Beckman or me if you plan on coming! Hope to see you soon! We would love for you to attend. Everyone is invited. If you might be interested please let Kim or Dean Beckman know so you can be included in the email invite list!

Kim Jacobson-763-370-3122 or email: kimsue-j63@gmail.com

Dean Beckman-email: Gussie1223@msn.com

CHURCH NEWS

Winter Card Groups

Grace has two different groups playing cards in our fellowship hall during the week.

Everyone is invited to come out and join in.

Donna's card group meets Mon. and Wed. at 10:30am

The Snowbird Card group meets Thurs. from 1-3

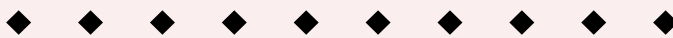


Calling all Women!!!

The Grace Women's Group met for lunch at J. Michael's on Monday, January 13, for their first meeting of the year. We had a great turnout with eight women in attendance.

Kim led the opening devotional time with an excerpt from the book, "The Hammer of God" by Bo Giertz, a Swedish Lutheran Bishop.

Rev. Peter Jacobson, Kim's brother-in-law, has recommended two books from Giertz and has enjoyed reading them very much. Following our devotional time, Kim handed out a plastic bag and suggested something she had read on Facebook that stated that for the 40 days of Lent each person should put one thing every day of Lent that they don't wear anymore in a bag. Items could be men's, women's, or children's clothing, purses, shoes, or other accessories. At the end of the 40 days of Lent each person should bring their bag to church and Kim will take them to Save the Closet, a local organization helping those in need. Save the Closet has traveled to hurricane victims, fire victims and others in need and is always receiving donations. Grace women are looking for women to take the lead on devotions and also for suggestions of places to eat. **Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 5 at 10 AM at Another Broken Egg located at 11535 Hutchison Blvd. See you there!**



Junior Warden Update

At the request of the Vestry, several bids were obtained for supply and installation of a new LED sign to replace the old manual messaging marquee. This will be a two-sided, 4 feet high by 8 feet wide, full color, programmable, active display that will greatly enhance our messaging to the thousands of motorists who drive by our church every day. Last December the Vestry approved awarding a contract to Stewart Signs in Sarasota, Florida and installation will occur this Spring. Funding for this outreach project is coming from unrestricted bequests received in recent years held in our Memorial Fund.

Many thanks to all those folks who helped install and remove Christmas decorations in the parish hall and church, especially to our decorator-in-chief, Jeanine Pope, who did a lot of preparation and provided adult supervision for the chaos that ensued. Thanks also to all who brought goodies for the reception after the Christmas Eve service, especially Daphne Dove-Peirce, who provided a wondrous punch with optional Jameson Irish (which some of us couldn't pass up), and to all those who helped clean up afterward. It all made for a great evening of worship and fellowship.



Peace,
Fred Pope



Community News

February 7th

Musically Up Close with Victor Shlyakhteno

City of Panama City, City Hall Rotunda | 2:30PM

pcbeach.org/local-event/musically-up-close-with-victor-shlyakhtenko/

February 8th

Tribute to Tchaikovsky

Barbara W. Nelson Fine Arts Center, Bay High School | 7:00PM

pcbeach.org/local-event/tribute-to-tchaikovsky/

February 8th

PCB Food Truck & Craft Beer Festival

Aaron Bessant Park | 12:00PM - 5:00PM

pcbeach.org/local-event/pcb-food-truck-craft-beer-festival/

February 14th

PCB Mardi Gras & Music Festival

Pier Park | 3:30PM-7:30PM

pcbeach.org/local-event/pcb-mardi-gras-music-festival/

The realm of the impossible

The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God's realm, where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for his almighty power. Nothing is too small for his love.

—Corrie ten Boom

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers

Needed

Chalice Bearer-
Training provided

Lectors

Greeters

Women's Group Leader

Contact any vestry member or
Fr. Justin to volunteer.



Open invitation

Come, sinners, to the
gospel feast,
Let every soul be Jesus' guest;
Ye need not be one left behind,
For God hath bidden all human-
kind.

Sent by my Lord, on you I call;
The invitation is to all:
Come, all the world;
come, sinner, thou!
All things in Christ are ready now.

Come, all ye souls by sin
oppressed,
Ye restless wanderers after rest,
Ye poor, and maimed, and halt,
and blind,
In Christ a hearty welcome find.

—Charles Wesley (18th century)



Lay Ministry Schedule - FEBRUARY

February 2, 2025

Lector: Les Brackett
Crucifer/Chalice Bearer: Carl Walters
Greeter: Donna Heim
Counter: Carl Walters

February 9, 2025

Lector: Carol Adams
Crucifer/Chalice Bearer: Jack Friou
Greeter: Dean Beckman
Counter: Fred Pope

February 16, 2025

Lector: Kelley Hodges
Crucifer: Katy Hodges
Chalice Bearer: Sam Richardson
Greeter: Deb Gray
Counter: Sam Richardson

Wednesday Service-February 19, 2025

Lector: Nancy Beckman
Crucifer/Chalice Bearer: Jack Friou

February 23, 2025

Lector: Jamie Shephard
Crucifer/Chalice Bearer: Carl Walters
Greeter: Babette Harrell
Counter: Carl Walters



Do not neglect
to **do good** and to
share what you have,
for such **sacrifices**
are **pleasing** to God.

HEBREWS 13:16, NRSV

A Word from the Editor

Announcements for the newsletter need to be emailed to Liz Creswell secretary@gracespirit.org by the 20th of each month.



February Birthdays

25– Vanessa Donovan
26—Deborah Edmondson

If your birthday or anniversary are missing from the list please email that information to secretary@gracespirit.org

Love makes us worthy

Unlike God, who loves unconditionally, humans often make choices and set limits when doling out affection. But Thomas Merton reminds us, “Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody’s business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy.”

As for how to develop and maintain that type of love? Merton shares, “It is in deep solitude that I find the gentleness with which I can truly love my [neighbors].”

Please Support Southern California Wildfire Response

“COME TO ME, ALL YOU THAT ARE WEARY AND ARE CARRYING HEAVY BURDENS, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.”—MATTHEW 11:28

High winds and drought conditions combined to accelerate the growth of wildfires that have devastated communities in California. Places of worship, businesses and homes have been heavily damaged. Mass evacuations and widespread power outages have affected hundreds of thousands of people.

Episcopal Relief & Development is working closely with partners to support people affected by the Southern California wildfires. The [Wildfire Response Fund](#) is an important tool for responding to immediate needs and supporting long-term recovery. Please contribute to Episcopal Relief & Development’s [Wildfire Response Fund](#) to support these efforts.

**Visit episcopalrelief.org
to donate and get more information**